

The

Tricentennial

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

APRIL 30, 1998

MAKE IT HAPPEN!!

The Tricentennial is catching on. No, its not yet a fever, but there are more and more folks who are seeking to get involved. For this reason, the following sub-committees have been established and are so varied as to anyone's bill of interest. Mail in your request for committee assignment, or just call the telephone numbers listed below. (If no number is listed, call Dan Ellis at 452-3138)

Sub Committee Descriptions**● SPECIAL EVENTS SUBCOMMITTEE**

This committee will take the lead from the various subcommittees and help to coordinate those events that are approved by the Board as sanctioned fundraising events. It will be the responsibility of this committee to manage the logistics of all group gatherings using the resources of the entire Tricentennial Committee. Ken Austin, 452-0080.

● EDUCATIONAL/SCHOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE

This committee will be charged with the responsibility of working with local schools and educators to provide support for the development of a curriculum to support the Tricentennial effort, to arrange for the development of an exhibit to showcase the effort, to work as a liaison with the fundraising committee to develop programs wherein the local schools can participate and any other duties that would normally fall under the auspices of the educational and school relations function. Tracy Gordon Goff, 452-5185.

Continued on page 2

**Happy Anniversary!**

St. Paul United Methodist Church celebrated their 146th year with a theme representing voices of the past, present and future. In special commemorative services held in the church building at 322 Clark Avenue, an inspiring program was presented to a full congregation of members and guests.

Rev. O.D. Gilmer complimented the host of speakers, vocalists, instrumentalists, and choral participants for their outstanding conferrals in observance of the Church's historic occasion.

Designated speakers were Alderman Michael Antoine, Miss Brooke Jones, and Dr. Louis Perkins, a former congregant, who spoke on his reflections of Pass Christian when he was a young man. He reminisced on past teachers and coaches at Randolph High.

In his second visit to the Pass since 1985, he stated how proud he was for the excellent educational program that he was equipped with at Randolph High, and for the unforgotten spiritual training he received from St. Paul United Methodist Church. He reminded everyone that St. Paul Methodist, which originated in 1836, was his lighthouse. Dr. Perkins pointed out that, "the church's roots were established even before Pass Christian became an incorporated town and prevailed many years before the 14th Amendment, it remains a beacon of heritage to be proud of."

As a world traveler who also scoured the rugged countries of Africa, he was quick to state that as a university professor, he continues to teach the strength of vision over a mien for dreams, because visions represent forward thinking, whereas dreams are entrenched in the past. (The photo depicted above was the original church, which was constructed in 1852, and a casualty of Camille in 1969.)

SUB COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Continued from page 1.

FUNDRAISING/MARKETING SUBCOMMITTEE

This committee will be charged with the responsibility of developing fundraising activities, oversight of efforts to solicit individual and corporate donations, marketing of the effort in the media and any other duties that would normally fall under the auspices of the marketing function.

FINANCE/LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE

This committee will be charged with the responsibility of maintaining the organization's financial records, reviewing all contracts/commitments for content, reporting on the progress of fundraising activities and any other matters that would normally fall under the auspices of treasury or legal functions. Dayton Robinson, 452-4543.

MERCHANDISING SUBCOMMITTEE

This committee will be responsible for developing ideas for merchandise to be sold in support of the Tricentennial Committee's fundraising efforts. The identification, coordination, presentation, distribution and maintenance of stock levels will be under the auspices of this subcommittee.

HERITAGE SUBCOMMITTEE

This committee will be responsible for identifying, cataloging and maintaining a list of all past and present historical markers and sites. The Heritage subcommittee, with the assistance of the Historical subcommittee, will research and document potential historical sites for potential additional historical markers.

COMMUNICATION SUBCOMMITTEE

This committee will have the primary responsibility of producing and distributing the newsletter. Additionally, all correspondence sent out on behalf of the Tricentennial Committee would be coordinated through this committee. Dan Ellis, 452-3138.

HISTORICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

This committee will be responsible for continuing to develop the historical reference of Pass Christian and in providing ideas and support for the development of a permanent Pass Christian exhibit.

New Organizational Structure

Purpose: To bring together in one embodiment, a productive and meaningful organization which will maximize efficiency and communication. We have been bestowed with ever increasing interest and participation, as we move closer to our target year of 1999. Everyone is encouraged to take part. All meetings are open and guests are always made welcome.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(formerly the Steering Committee)

This Board has the overall decision-making authority for the direction of the entire Tricentennial effort. This group of community-minded individuals will bring matters forward for Board action, vote on all matters presented for approval and will participate in the various Tricentennial theme activities as representatives of the Tricentennial Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This committee, composed of elected officers, is charged with the overall responsibility of organizing, directing and supervising the daily activities of the Tricentennial Committee. This group is responsible for keeping the Board of Directors informed of all committee activities and for bringing issues forward for Board approval.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

The overall Tricentennial Pass Christian Area Colonization Committee will be composed of all citizens and residents of the Greater Pass Christian Area, including the communities of Henderson Point, Pass Christian Isles, DeLisle, Vidalia, Cuevas and Pineville.



THE PASS

How beautiful she is, there by the sea,
With sunlit waters dancing all around,
With golden sands and soaring birds,
A quiet, sleepy little town.

Steeped in history, rich with past,
A city of brave settlers born,
Filled with memories, bittersweet,
Of childhood lost and forever gone.

Those memories live on every street.
How familiar it all seems!
All the places we once knew
That now we treasure in our dreams.

The stately spire of St. Paul's,
Reaching ever toward the sky,
The classic beauty of God's house,
Inspiring all those passing by.

Sweet memories of the Avalon,
Where we kids would always go
To gather there and meet our friends
And rarely ever watch the show.

Once Howell's was our favorite place
To spend long summer afternoons.
We laughed and talked and shared our dreams
While the jukebox played our favorite tunes.

The Pass has changed much through the years,
And though much loved as she was back then,
Her face, once scarred by nature's wrath,
Is now so beautiful again.

How can one ever bear to leave?
A heart, once touched, will always be
Bound forever to lead you home
To this city by the sea.

God bless this place and all who dwell.
Bless every precious grain of sand.
Please keep it ever close to Thee,
Safe within Thy loving hand.

by Jessie H.

ISLES AND LAGOONS

The Pass Christian Isles Company began dredging activity a few hundred feet north of the L&N Railroad tracks at Henderson Point in July 1926. The land dredge was building up the occasional low spots that were lower than 12-feet above sea-level. The planned 1400-acre development was unique for the Mississippi Coast by establishing a large yacht harbor several hundred feet square. It connected with the waters of Bay of St. Louis on one side, and on the other, with a series of inland lagoons and waterways that created Pass Christian Isles. The lagoons were designed to wind through the development for a distance of about seven miles.

The wooden bridge scheduled for construction was not completed until 1928. In the meantime, the Drackett Ferry carried passengers and cars to and fro between Henderson Point and Bay St. Louis.

A million-dollar plaza was also planned to be strung along Highway 90 with anticipations of it being the hub of a business district for Pass Christian Isles. The Mediterranean architectural design was to include a commercial hotel, amphitheater, a restaurant, patio, and two high-class stores. However, only the resort hotel was completed as it became the famous Inn By the Sea. The Great Depression of the 30's had its toll. Even the hotel languished and was eventually taken over as a Merchant Marine Training Academy in 1942, and later abandoned.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jayme Condra	452-4224
Dan Ellis	452-3138
Dayton Robinson	452-4543

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Louisiana's FrancoFete

The *FrancoFete* will be celebrated as a yearlong bash in '99 throughout Louisiana. Probably some of it will lob-over into the French origination of Gulfcoast Mississippi. The French connection between Canada and Louisiana ignores the fact that there were a few Canadian French from Nova Scotia/Acadia that found their place in Mississippi's bayous.

Major dates to be celebrated in Louisiana will be the "kick-off" with the 1999 Super Bowl, the March 3rd date for the 300 anniversary of Mississippi River discovery by Iberville, and American and French Independence days of July 4 and July 14. -And the *Congres Mondial Acadien-Louisiane* or World Acadien Congress, will be held August 1-15. It is anticipated that many French visitors will be arriving from Canada as well as France.

French heritage is alive with a lexicon of terms. *Café noir* (black coffee), *Gumbo des Crévises* (crawfish gumbo), *Cochon de Lait* (roast suckling pig), *Du Pain Mais* (corn bread), *Riz Jambalaya* (rice flavored with gravies and herbs), *Fricassé Champignons* (stewed wild mushroom), *Kush-Kush* ("Cajun" fried yellow hominy), *Canard Farci* (roast duck) and, *Ambrosia* (chopped fruit dessert).

VIVE LA FRANCE!

Pass Cuisine

Jessie Heitzmann has agreed to help compile a Tricentennial Cook Book as a project to help raise funds to defray ongoing expenses. Please send your recipes to Jessie, care of POB 354, or call her at 452-9405.

Paul Bode offered to do his *New England Chowder*.

More Kudos!

Thanks to Bob Mintz who expedited the necessary paperwork to clear the non-profit bulk rate status for the Tricentennial Committee. This results in nearly a 50% reduction in postal costs, from 20.9 cents to 11.7 cents per newsletter.

And thanks to Roy Stoddard for making a Video taping of the Kickoff Dinner program. The video is well worth watching and will be available for anyone wishing to view it.

Heart-felt appreciation to Gloria Moran who presented the color photo of d'Iberville's *Ex-Voto* which is used as the cover for Map Set III of Pass Christian's graphic history. These packets are available at City Hall for a donation of \$10.00.

Thanks to Nap Cassibry's recent contributions on the Courtenays, Dubuissos, and Trepagniers which are copied at Billy Bourdin's Collections.

We also thank those who have been sending forward monetary contributions for Tricentennial projects.



Tricentennial Newsletter

Now that we have a Non-profit Postal Bulk Rate, the cost per Newsletter issue can finally be determined. The twice-monthly issues will continue throughout 1998 and 1999. Including production, printing, and postage, the per issue rate is established at 32 cents each. The cost annually is \$7.70 per subscription. We look forward to continued distribution, but we need your help. Several folks have already sent in voluntary subscription donations, however, if all 800+ on the mailing list send in \$7.70 for this year, we will break even.

Our gratitude is extended to those of you who have willingly given of your time to fold and affix labels on the newsletters. It takes about an hour to prepare 100 pieces for mailing. Members of various organizations have been very accommodating to these chores.



Blessing of the Fleet



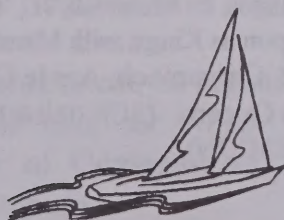
Alderman-At-Large Chipper McDermott realized his wish-come-true as a host of decorated, commercial and pleasure boats streamed out of the harbor dressed out with flags and banners and full decks of people enjoying the wonderful occasion of one of the best Fleet Blessings ever.

The boats promenaded single-file before the judges who were amongst the hord of officials and guests aboard Commodore John Dane's cruising yacht, the *Shodown*. In attendance were city officials, Mayor Billy McDonald and aldermen, Chipper McDermott, Michael Antoine, Margaret Jean Kalif, and Vonnie Bodenschatz. Administering the blessings were Rev. Christopher Colby, Pastor, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Rev. Bartholomew Endslo, Pastor, Mother of Mercy Catholic Church. Criss-crossing the path of the "Parade of Boats" was a Regatta sponsored by the Pass Christian Yacht Club with their sailing craft skimming the surf.

Swarms of people filled the boats tied up in the Harbor marina, as others took to motering the Sound. On shore, live music kept the hundreds of land-bound public hopping, as food was dispensed by various volunteer organizations. T-shirt sales were vigorous -- with all proceeds going towards annual educational scholarships.

Winners All

King Fisherman -- Bookie Scarborough
Queen Fisherette -- Barbara Scarborough
King Sportsman -- John Dane III
Queen Sportsette -- Martha Murphy



Boat Owner Award Winners

Joe Necaise	Billy Melton
Gene Wescovich	Tom Lassabe
Horace Necaise	Tra Van Nguyen
Gary Travis	Thanh Nguyen
Henry Alexander	Tommy Pickich
Bobbie Scarborough	Jim Shaw
Jerry Wilkerson	Ricky Bishop

The Street Car Run

The first Mississippi Coast streetcar appeared in downtown Biloxi in 1895 and was destined to reach Pass Christian within the next few years. The first trolleys were made of wood and were pulled by mules along track routes following the beachfront and in downtown Biloxi to the Back-bay area. By 1904, mule power was replaced by electrical power. As Gulfport became developed, Captain Joe Jones established the coastwide trolley franchise which joined the cities together and encouraged tourists to visit adjoining communities.

Riding the Street Car along the beach from Biloxi to Pass Christian was a favored past-time for many visitors to the Gulf from 1895 to the late 1920s. Tracks were laid along the coast from the East as far as the vacant Gulf Plaza Shopping Center on U.S. Highway. 90. The tracks then left the Coast at what was then called *Gribble's Curve* near the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Gribble and continued westward along Second Street to Trinity Church where a small waiting room had been erected.



Civil War Comes to Coast

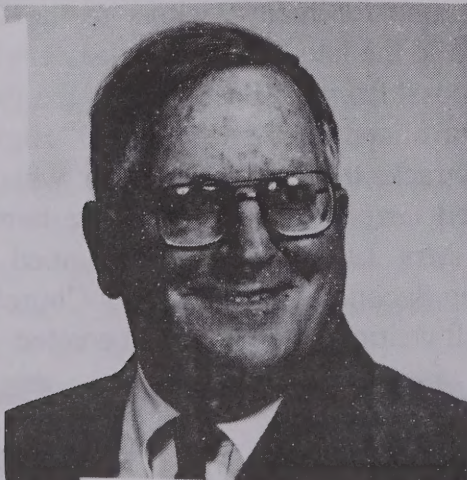
Author and historian to be featured at joint historical meeting.

Author and historian H. Grady Howell Jr. will take time out from his research and writing to be the keynote speaker at a special meeting of the Pass Christian, Long Beach and Hancock County Historical Societies. On May 17 Howell will share stories of Coast soldiers, including his own great-grandfather, who were part of the Third Mississippi Regiment in the Civil War. This regiment included soldiers from Pass Christian, Biloxi, Long Beach and Hancock County. Five of the 10 companies were from the Coastal counties; no other Mississippi regiment had that many, Howell noted.

Tales of these men and their hardships were collected in Howell's well-known volume "To Live and Die in Dixie." In addition to his presentation, he will have copies of the book to autograph during the event, which begins at 6 p. m. at the Pass Christian Yacht Club.

The public is welcome to attend the joint dinner meeting of the historical societies, and tickets are on sale for \$15 each. "It will be a fun evening, but seating is limited," said John Lutenbacher, president of the Pass Christian Historical Society.

To obtain tickets for the May 17 event, contact Jean Moreland at 452-7721; Pat Mowry at 452-9654 or John Lutenbacher at 452-9296.



Tarpon Beacon Clippings

For the first time, in 1948, Mississippi women were required to serve as Jurors. The *Pass Christian Tarpon Beacon* addressed the issue as follows: "Can't you hear the Judge instruct, *The ladies of the jury will now retire to the powder room.*"

"Women jurors will also have to learn to chew tobacco to be competent to serve. Please remove your hats. Don't use lipstick while in the jury box. And if you expect to be locked up over night, you had better bring your own bedding for those old army cots are always hard and sometimes insanitary. Also bring your own rummy deck, and its 100-to-1 that you left the cat in, and the gas on, and forgot to lock the back door, and the old man is out with that blond hussy, and . . ."

More Beacon Clippings

A Reporting from the *Beacon* of Pass Christian, shows the extensive communication which existed along the Mississippi Gulf coast in the early days. "On Thursday, Dec. 1, 1892, at the residence of the bride's brother, Mr. T.W. Adam, at Bay St. Louis, by Rev. Father Alphonse, Mr. P.B. Hand, of Handsboro (Gulfport), and Miss Anette Adam, of Bay St. Louis. Mr. Hand is one of the staunchest citizens of Harrison county, and quite a successful business man. He is owner of a large lumber factory at Handsboro and a foundry at Long Beach, is a public-spirited citizen, and is in every way worthy of the fair bride he has won. Miss Adam is a lovable young lady and Mr. Hand is to be congratulated upon winning such a jewel from the matrimonial field. To both, *The Beacon* extends hearty congratulations and best wishes. -(SCE 12/17/1892)

The King and Queen Ball of Pass Christian, was given at the McIntyre House last Thursday evening. It proved one of the most pleasant social events of the season. Among those who gracefully figured in the dancing and creditably represented royalty, were Messrs. Sydney Saucier, Frank Huges, R. McIntosh, Jr., Charles Taconi, and Leon Capdepon as Kings, with Misses Belle Tonry, N. Courtenay, M. Christovich, Annie Cronovich, and Katie Farrell as Queens. (SCE 02/18/1893) (PASS CHRISTIAN BEACON)

PROFILE

Louis Raymond Perkins

As an early volunteer in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Perkins, a graduate from Randolph High School in Pass Christian, served as Chairman for a Civilian Defense Unit.

Upon enlistment with the Navy in June 1942, Perkins was trained in navigation. But instead of creditable military duties, he was reduced to menial tasks because of his color. Nevertheless, the 18-year-old, pressed for more noble tasks of performance and was eventually rewarded with a more meritorious duty assignment. Following the war, he went on to receive a Masters Degree in 1957, having completed his B.S. Degree in 1949.

Early in life, Perkins had demonstrated his leadership distinctions. He was one of the organizers of the *Knights of Zeus*, which conducted Mardi Gras Balls and Parades in downtown Pass Christian during 1939 and 1940.

As a graduating senior in the Randolph Class of 1942, Perkins was Class President, Football Team Captain and Editor of the Senior Class Souvenir Book. Excerpts from his February 1942, *Editorial* depict his dreams, attitude and valor.

"Two months ago tomorrow -- December 7, 1941, treachery, tyranny and trickery were released in our back yard.

"Negro youth, fresh from the lexicon of scholastic achievement and knowledge, injected with the serum of facing the world courageously, have met with discouraging obstacles, sent forth by our foes.

"We are not asleep. We too, have been aroused by the stimulus of barbarism and realize that we, who are Negroes, have also been involved. We intend to do our share.

Prior to enlistment, he organized and served a Civil Defense Unit for which he received a mayoral Letter of Commendation from former Mayor W.G. Simpson.

As a world traveler and Educator, Perkins was a College professor at the University of the District of Columbia teaching biology, microbiology, and physiology. --And taught History and Philosophy at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

During a trip to Corpus Christie in 1981, Perkins stated that, "Blacks now growing up in this nation must look to their own communities for motivation and inspiration. There are too few national heroes to provide such inspiration."

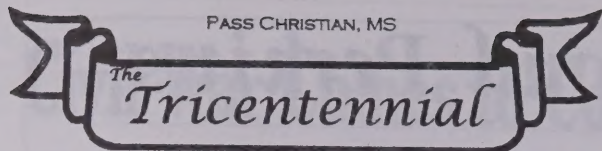
During a return visit to Pass Christian, for Black History Month, in 1983, he extolled, "It is for my ancestors I carry on. We must open the door for the little children coming on. We must be the lighthouse that beckons for others."

Louis Perkins has received many acknowledgements for his indefatigable activities and accomplishments, as a community leader, educator, author, and public speaker.

At the age of 73, Louis R. Perkins resides in Washington D.C., while continuing to teach history and the humanities.

Dr. Perkins arrived back to the Pass recently to celebrated the 146th Anniversary of his former church, St. Paul United Methodist. He took the occasion to visit Billy Bourdin where many treasured stories were shared. We look forward to hearing some of them.





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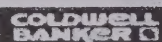
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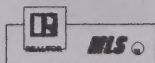


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